Ark Angels

VOLUME THREE

Sang-Sun Park

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

We came from an Earth in a parallel dimension.
Our mission is to rescue the animals of this planet that are on the brink of extinction, preserving them in a "Noah's Ark."
Our perception of Your Earth's animals is different than Yours.
We don't just see an animal's physical form, but we look inside to its soul.
That's why... We believe every life is equal and precious.

This is my oldest sister, Shem.
This is Ham. She likes to complain.
She's kind-hearted and is really serious about most things, so when she gets angry she's like a monster!
ME?! BUT I'M SO SWEET.
She is my second-oldest sister. She got the good looks but was made disagreeable in return. She hates men with a passion.
MY name is Japheth. I'm the youngest sister.
NOW ON TO OUR NEXT MISSION!

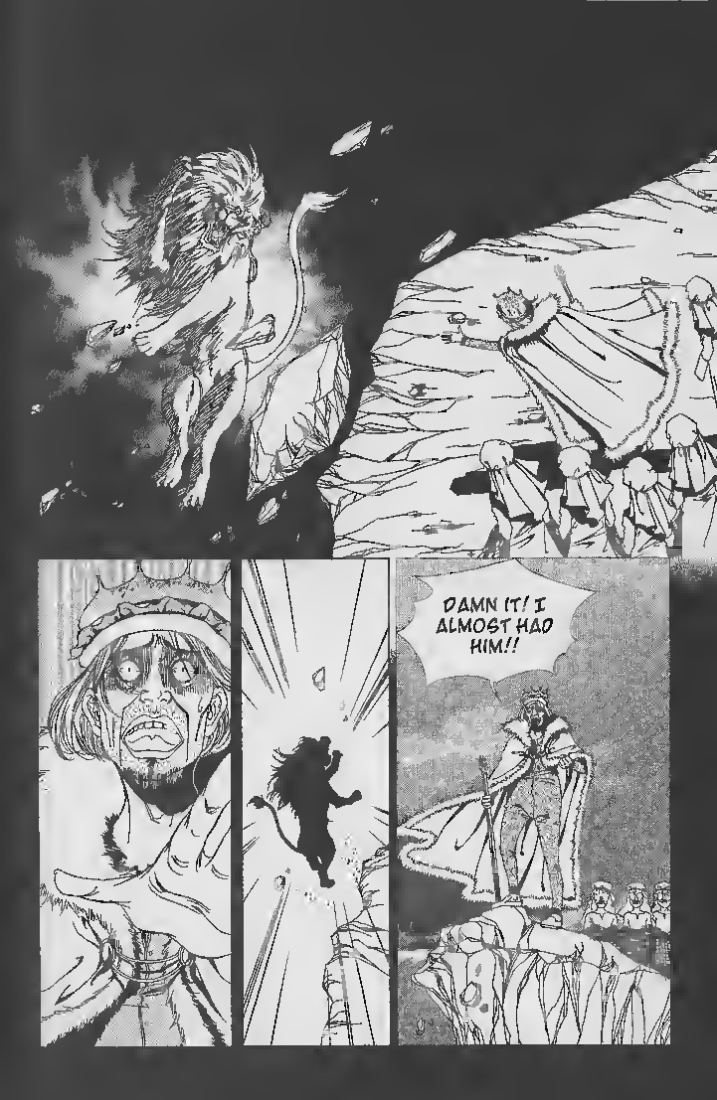
{Chapter 1}

MAKE IT EASIER ON YOURSELF AND SURRENDER.
GRRRRR...
HOO HOO HOO! YOU CAN KEEP RUNNING, BUT IT'LL BE RIGHT OFF THE CLIFF!

NOW! HURRY AND THROW THE NET!!
GRRRRR...

HOO HOO HOO...
HOO HOO HOO... THAT'S IT. STAY RIGHT THERE.

ROWWRR!!
GRROOAR!


DAMN IT! I ALMOST HAD HIM!!

We believe that all humans have the capacity to do good deep within their hearts. This is why we continue to protect their world from destruction.
Still sometimes it's hard not to wonder if we're doing the right thing

WHERE THE HECK ARE WE? IT'S HOT!
THIS IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF PLACE I'D HAVE CHOSEN FOR A VACATION TRAVELING THE WORLD IS FUN ESPECIALLY WHEN OTHER PEOPLE PAY FOR IT! HEE HEE!

I'M JUST GLAD WE WON'T HAVE TO FREE-FALL THROUGH THE AIR ANYMORE
YOU SAID IT, HAMU! NO MORE CRASH LANDINGS!
ALL RIGHT, GIRLS, LET'S SEE WHAT OUR MISSION IS THIS TIME!
LOST
EDEN

アトラス山 1922
Barbary Lion
MOROCCO'S ATLAS MOUNTAIN, CIRCA 1922. OUR JOB IS TO RESCUE THE BARBARY LION, DESCENDENT OF THE NOBLE KING OF ALL LIONS!
ギュ〜

YAAAAA!!
AHHHH!!

PTUI! PTU! YUCK! I HAVE DIRT IN MY MOUTH.
I TOLD THEM WE HATE TRAVELING THIS WAY, BUT THEY SAID IF WE DON'T LIKE IT, WE CAN QUIT. THERE'S PLENTY MORE HENCHMEN WHERE WE CAME FROM.
CHIEF, IF THIS KEEPS UP, OUR BODIES ARE GOING TO BE COMPLETELY WRECKED! DOES UPPER MANAGEMENT CARE AT ALL?
NO PROBLEMO, CHIEF! ENOUGH LOLLYGAGGING-- LET'S GET TO WORK!

COWARDLY BASTARDS...
beep beep
Flash
DID YOU FIND THE KIDS?
WE JUST GOT HERE, SO WE HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK
REPORT EVERYTHING TO ME SPARE NO DETAILS
IF YOU FAIL AGAIN THIS TIME YOU WON'T LIKE THE CONSEQUENCES

HMPH!! SHE'S PRACTICALLY A KID, AND YET SHE ORDERS ME AROUND. IF SHE'S SO SMART, WHY DOESN'T SHE DO IT HERSELF?
シュッ
シュワ

WE ALWAYS END UP STARVING ON MISSIONS, SO I SMUGGLED IT ALONG.
IT'S ALMOST DONE!
WOW, JAPHETH! WHERE DID YOU GET THIS FOOD?
TODAY, WE EAT WELL!

WE'VE FOUND OUR QUARRY, MEN! CHARGE!

ドサッ
ハア
ハア

EEEEEEEEK!
DEARIE ME! THE LION HAS KIDNAPPED A LITTLE GIRL!

ONWARD, GENTLEMEN! FOLLOW THAT BEAST!!
ワア
SHEM! THAT LION GRABBED HAMU!
IT WOULD APPEAR SO, JAPHETH.

IF THAT'S A BOY LION, HE'S IN FOR A WORLD OF HURT.
HAMU HATES ALL BOYS, WHETHER THEY'RE HUMAN OR ANIMAL.
I BET THAT W-S THE BARBARY LION! WHAT LUCK THAT WE FOUND HIM ALREADY. IT GIVES US MORE TIME TO FINISH EATING.
HOW CAN THEY BE SO COLD? ONE OF THEIR SISTERS WAS LION-NAPPED!
beep beep
Flash

SO, DID YOU FIND NOAH'S CHILDREN?
YES BUT THE MIDDLE GIRL, HAMU, WAS CARRIED OFF BY A LION
YOU STUPID FELINE! LET ME GO!
GROSS! MY HAND'S DRENCHED IN LION SPIT! I'M ALLERGIC TO CATS, YOU DOPE!
URK!!

Our perception of Your Earth's animals is different than Yours. We don't just see an animal's physical form, but we look inside to its soul.
Huff
Huff
Huff huff
IT FIGURES! IT'S A BOY CAT, TOO!
?

MOVE!!
JEEZ...IT'S JUST MY LUCK I GET SLOBBERED ON BY A LION!
ガアアア
DAMN.. WHERE AM I?
cough cough

Cough hack wheeze hack hack
GIMME A BREAK! WHAT'S WRONG NOW?
IS SOMETHING STUCK IN YOUR THROAT?
I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE. IT'S TOTALLY NASTY, BUT I CAN'T LET HIM DIE.

HOW DUMB ARE YOU? YOU SWALLOWED A FORK!
AH AH AHHHK!!
OKAY, I GET THE POINT! YOU'RE THANKFUL!
キラ
キラ

ANYWAY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
SIMBA.
HM. I'VE SEEN THIS GUY BEFORE SOMEWHERE
AH-HA!

YOU'RE THE CRITTER WE WERE SENT TO FIND!
ペロペロ
THIS IS GREAT FOR ONCE, OUR TARGET FOUND US!
NOW I JUST GOT TO FIND THE WAY BACK TO SHEM AND JAPHETH.
MINMIN!!
MINMIN!!
ヒュル
パタパタ
MINMIN, GO AND FETCH MY SISTERS!

パタパタ
STRANGE FOR A SECOND THERE, IT FELT LIKE SOMEONE WAS WATCHING ME

HOW FAR DID THEY GO? WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THEM FOR THREE HOURS ALREADY.
HEY, YOU KIDS!! STOP RIGHT THERE!!

HALT!!
SOMETHING SMELLS FISHY AROUND HERE... WHERE DID YOU ALL COME FROM?
BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR, BUT WHO'S ASKING?
AND WHAT ARE YOU GUYS AFTER?

HOO HOO HOO!! I'M KING DALEGE OF MUNIMUNI ISLAND, CENTER OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN!!
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF SUCH A PLACE?
I BOUGHT THIS PARADISE WITH MONEY I EARNED SELLING FAST FOOD.
YOU CHILDREN HAVEN'T COME HERE TO INTERFERE WITH MY LION HUNTING, HAVE YOU?

SIR, WHY DO YOU WANT TO CATCH LIONS? THE BARBARY LION IS THE LAST OF ITS KIND IN THE WHOLE WORLD
IT'S MY HERITAGE AS A KING TO BATTLE SUCH A NOBLE BEAST
I'M THROWING A PARTY IN MY CASTLE, AND THE BIG CAT WILL PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE SPECTACLE.
BARBARY LIONS HAVE GOLDEN MANES THAT GROW DOWN TO THEIR WAISTS, AND THEY TOWER OVER NORMAL LIONS
THEY MAKE THE MOST WONDERFUL CARPETS!
CARPET?!!

IT WOULD APPEAR YOU ARE HERE TO INTERFERE.
GENTLEMEN, ARREST THESE BRATS!
CRAP! WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?
DO WE HAVE TO RUN AWAY AGAIN?

HALT, PEASANTS !!
??!
DAMN IT!! IT'S SO DARK, I CAN'T SEE WHERE I'M GOING.

AAHHHH!!!

YOU'VE LET THEM ESCAPE, MEN!
HARUMPH! WELL, NO MATTER. THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D SURVIVE A FALL LIKE THAT.
ブラン
ブラン

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THIS HAPPENS, I CAN'T GET USED TO IT. I'M SCARED TO DEATH.
HUH...? HOLD ON.
キラ
SINCE THE GROUND IS RIGHT BENEATH US, SHOULD I GO DOWN?
WHAT... IS THAT?

YAHHHH!! WHAT IS IT NOW?!!
JUST WHEN YOU THINK IT CAN'T GET ANY WORSE!
THERE'S A MONSTER AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF!
GROWRRRRR! RORRR!

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TOKYOPOP

Ark Angels

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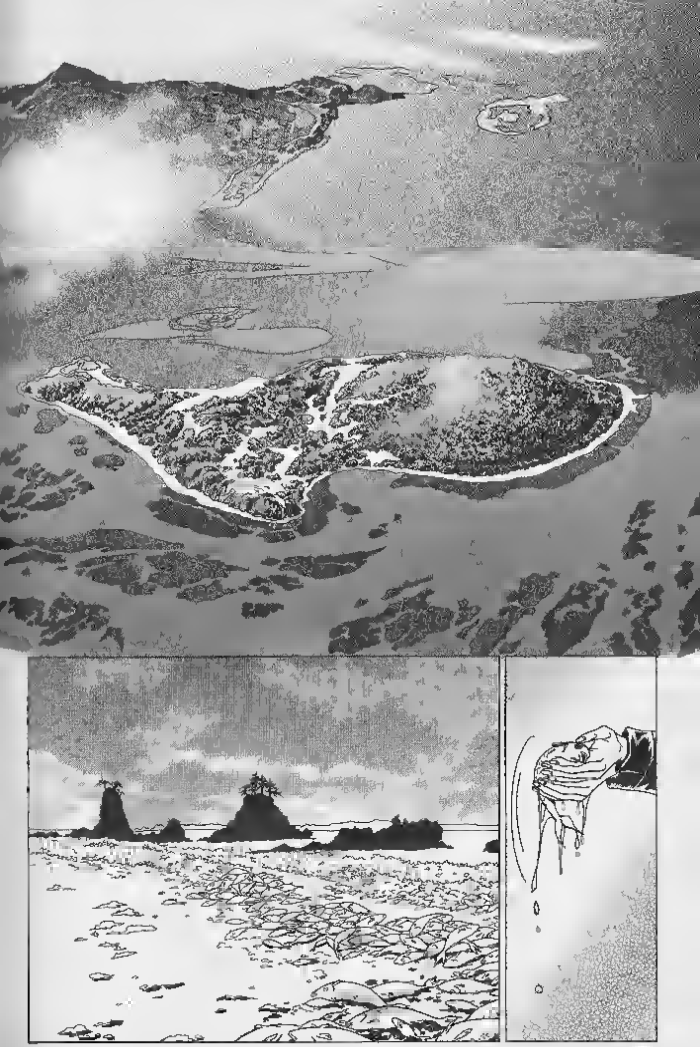
Sang-Sun Park

{Chapter 2}



MY BROTHER,
NO MATTER HOW OFTEN
YOU AVERT YOUR GAZE,
YOU CAN'T AVOID
THE TRUTH.
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YOU'VE COVERED YOUR EYES BEFORE, KIRIGI, BUT THERE IS ONLY SO LONG YOU CAN AVOID THE PAIN OF REALITY.
YOU MUST LOOK. YOU HAVE TO SEE WHAT THE HUMANS ARE DOING TO YOU!
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パラパラ
DON'T FORGET, MY BROTHER.
IF YOU ARE DESTROYED, I WILL BE DESTROYED, TOO.

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?

YAAA!!
ARE YOU REALLY A LION? BECAUSE YOUR HUNTING SKILLS SUCK.

ガラガラ
NOW, SIMBA EAT UP TODAY'S DINNER SPECIAL IS RABBIT!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO GET A HEAVY RAIN I SHOULD START A FIRE

WHAT'S BUGGING YOU, KITTY? ARE YOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE?
AHHH!! IT'S COLD!!
?

SIMBA! UNTIL THE HUMANS ARE GONE, YOU CANNOT MOVE FROM HERE OR MAKE ANY NOISE UNDERSTAND?!
FATHER...

YOU CAN DO THIS ON YOUR OWN, CAN'T YOU?
YOU'RE A MAN NOW, MY SON.
CAPTURE THE BEAST!

GRRRROWR.

SIMBA! WAKE UP. YOU'RE SOAKED, AND YOU'LL CATCH COLD IF YOU DON'T TAKE SHELTER.
DAD!!

ZZZ...
NNGG...
OWWW...
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU'D GET SICK IF YOU GOT RAINED ON, STUPID LION.
LET'S SEE HOW HIGH YOUR FEVER IS

ちゃっ
...MOMMY...

OOOOH, ICK! WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!!
MMM...
MOMMY...
AW, DO YOU MISS YOUR MOM?

JEEZ, CHIEF, THIS IS PRETTY HIGH FOR THOSE KIDS TO FALL FROM.
SURE, BUT IT'S THEIR COMIC BOOK, SO THEY AREN'T GOING TO DIE FOR NO REASON, ARE THEY?
CHIEF, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
HMM... THEY'VE BEEN SPLIT UP BETWEEN LION-NAPPING AND CLIFF DIVING, SO I GUESS MAYBE WE SHOULD SPLIT UP, TOO.

WHOA. THAT'S A LONG WAY DOWN.
IF WE HIT BOTTOM, WE'LL BE A STICKY MESS TO SCOOP UP.
YOU TWO KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE KIDS WHO FELL OFF THE CLIFF! I WILL GO FIND THE GIRL WHO WAS SNATCHED BY THE LION.
YAAA!
AAAAA!

GRRRRR...
YIKES! I-IS IT A MONSTER?
RRRRRR.
We don't just see an animal's physical form, but we look inside to its soul. And so, to us, they look like people.

YOU ARE HUMANS.
HISSSS!! HAVE YOU COME TO TRY TO CAGE ME, TOO?
YEAH... YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'D BE SUPER EASY TO CATCH!
MAY WE ASK, WHO ARE YOU, SIR?
CAN IT BE? YOU CARE TO KNOW OF MY PLIGHT?!

MY PEOPLE PROBABLY LIVED THEIR LIVES TO THE FULLEST BACK DURING ROMAN TIMES.
THE ROMANS WERE GREAT CONQUERORS AND WANTED TO DISPLAY THEIR POWER.
?
There was only one breed of animals majestic enough to be their rivals.
That was the Barbary Lions. Our lineage includes many great kings!
Sometimes, we were used as messengers of death, executing the Christians that opposed Roman authority.
And yet, the price we paid for the honor was our own death.

After Rome fell, the humans took our land, and we were forced to live as fugitives. They hunted us for our skins.
They chased us to the northernmost territory, and with nowhere else to go, the few that survived came here, to Atlas Mountain.
I'M THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THAT NOBLE LINEAGE, THE FINAL REGENT OF THE FIRST BARBARY GENERATION!!
ZZZ
ZZZ
YOU CHILDREN!! YOU ASKED TO HEAR MY STORY, BUT YOU DARE TO SLEEP AS I TELL IT?!

BUT HISTORICAL EPICS MAKE ME DROWSY.
HIS STORY MAY HAVE BEEN BORING, BUT I THINK THIS GENTLEMAN IS THE BARBARY LION WE WERE LOOKING FOR, JAPHETH
LOOKING FOR ME?
THIS AND THAT HAPPENED, AND THIS AND THAT, AND SO WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOU TO OUR NOAH'S ARK.
I CANNOT GO NOT YET.

WHY NOT?!!
I HAVE...A SON. UNTIL MY CHILD BECOMES A MAN, I CANNOT LEAVE THIS PLACE.
A SON?
SO AFTER BEING CHASED BY HUMANS AND FALLING FROM THAT CLIFF, I MADE A RESOLUTION.
BY ALLOWING MY SON TO BELIEVE THAT I AM DEAD, I WILL HELP HIM FIND THE STRENGTH TO SURVIVE IN THIS WORLD ALONE.
WHY?
HE WAS BORN WITH A DISEASE CALLED AUTISM.

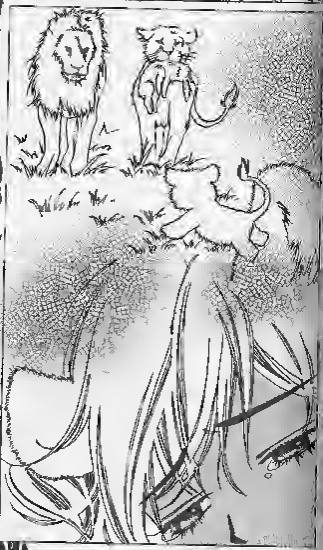
I HAVE KEPT MY EYE ON HIM, BUT HE HAS YET TO ALLAY MY FEARS
HE IS DIFFERENT, AND THAT MEANS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE LIKE HIS ANCESTORS DID, HE MUST TRY THAT MUCH HARDER
パタ パタ
IS THAT...?
MINMIN?!

HAMU MUST HAVE SENT YOU WHERE IS SHE?
MEOW MEOW MEW. MEW MEOW MEOW
CHIEF, WE HAVE GOOD NEWS! WE FOUND THE KIDS, AND THEY ARE WITH THE BARBARY LION
HMM. THIS SHALL BE A GRAND AFFAIR.
I JUST NEED TO CATCH ONE MORE, AND THEN MY CASTLE WILL BE DECORATED APPROPRIATELY FOR THE PARTY.

MAJESTY, I BROUGHT YOUR MEAL
ARE YOU NEW HERE, SERVANT?
YES, I AM!
I MADE THIS TRASH TO EARN MONEY, NOT TO EAT IT! BRING FRESH ORGANIC VEGETABLES! AND SUSHI!

DON'T SWEAT IT, CHET WE GET BURGERS EVERY DAY.
パッ
SIMBA, WHERE ARE WE?
OH, MY...!!

MOMMY



KING
AWWW...DAMN IT! I FORGOT MY SCEPTER. HOW WILL THEY KNOW I'M THE KING?

HAMU'S IN THIS ENCAMPMENT, MINMIN?
MEW MEW!
DAMN IT, WHY DO YOU KEEP COMING HERE, SIMBA?
HE'S BEEN TO THIS PLACE BEFORE?

IT'S BECAUSE HIS MOTHER IS HERE
IT'S THE BARBARY LION!
ワーワ
GET HIM!

OOH HA HA!! FINALLY, MY PRECIOUS RUG IS IN MY GRASP! SUCH A TENDER YOUNG MALE!
AT LAST, MY CASTLE WILL BE READY FOR MY ROYAL SHINDIG! MWA HA HA HA!
DAMN IT, THIS IS ALL WRONG. WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE, SIMBA.
SIMBA IS GOING TO STAY WITH MOMMY! HE LOVES HER!!

WHY ARE YOU STANDING AROUND?! CATCH HIM!
AH!
LET ME GO!!
HOO HOO HOO— DON'T WORRY, YOUNG LION. I'LL LET YOU STAY WITH YOUR MOTHER.

OOH HOO
HOO HOO
HOO...

{Chapter 3}

SOMETHING MUST HAVE GONE WRONG WE SHOULD GO AND HELP.
NO. WE MUST NOT ACT RASHLY
BUT THEY COULD BE IN TROUBLE!

THE BOY..
HAS THE ROYAL BLOOD OF THE BARBARY LIONS IN HIS VEINS
WE HAVE WORKMAN'S COMP, RIGHT? I'D CALL THIS AN "INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT."
GETTING HURT ON THE JOB, OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD, ETC
ズル
ズル

I KEEP HEARING THERE'S TROUBLE WITH SOCIAL SECURITY.
LIKE THEY'D EVER PAY OUT FOR THAT. I JUST HOPE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO RETIRE ON
EEK! IT'S THE BOSS!
I ONLY LOOKED AWAY FOR A SECOND, AND POOF! THEY WERE GONE. BUT I'LL FIND THEM, MA'AM, DON'T YOU WORRY.
THERE'S A LINE OF LOYAL SUBJECTS JUST WAITING TO REPLACE YOU, SO GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER!

SIGH...
YOU LOOK TIRED, BOSS.
HOW ABOUT WE GET SOME CHOW? IT'LL BE MY TREAT!
AH... THANK YOU, GUYS.
THIS JOB IS TOUGH, BUT YOU TWO--YOU MAKE IT BEARABLE.

WE'RE IN LUCK! THERE'S A HAMBURGER JOINT OVER THERE!
MONEY BURGER
YOU SURE THIS ISN'T TOO PRICEY FOR YOU?
NO WORRIES. I'VE GOT YOU COVERED.
SALE
2 TOWER $2.50
WOW!! THESE BURGERS ARE A STEAL ONLY ONE DOLLAR PER PATTY!
MONEY BURGER

A moment later...
THE HAM-BURGERS YOU ORDERED ARE READY.
SOUNDS LIKE A DEAL! ORDER UP!
WHAT'S THE--?!! THESE DON'T LOOK LIKE THE ONES IN THE PHOTOS!
GIMME A BREAK. WHAT DID YOU EXPECT FOR A BUCK?

ボオオ
MONEY MONEY BURGER
MONEY MONEY BURGER
MONEY MONEY BURGER
ボオオ

HELLO. HEALTH INSPECTOR? RESTAURANT DIVISION, PLEASE.
MOO HOO HOO!

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE WRAP THIS UP?
YEEEK!!
WHO ARE YOU PEOPLE, ANYWAY? SOME KIND OF ANIMAL-RIGHTS FANATICS?
HEY, FROG FACE!! UNHAND HIM!!

I CAN NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THAT.
WELL, WHOEVER YOU ARE, WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO YOU?
HAVE YOU EVER STOPPED TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO GOD'S BEAUTIFUL CREATIONS?!
THAT BOY IS THE LAST OF THE BARBARY LIONS!!
HAW HAW! EVEN BETTER!
I'LL BE THE ONLY MONARCH ON THE BLOCK WITH A GENUINE BARBARY LION CARPET!

WHAT?
QUIET, CHILD! ENOUGH OF YOUR NAGGING! HYAA--!
カラ

ARGH! WHY, YOU LITTLE--!!
ROOORWWR!
SIMBA!!

ガッ
パ

I FORGOT HE'S A LION BECAUSE HE'S NOT VERY BRIGHT...BUT A LION IS AS A LION DOES
WHY ARE YOU ALL STANDING AROUND?! SAVE ME!!
B-BUT... THAT CAT'S SCARY!
YOU IDIOTS!!
KRRRR...
Hah Hah Hah Hah Hah Hah Hah Hah

CHOMP
RRROOOAR!!

O-OAO. ?
SIMBA, AS THE CROWN PRINCE OF THE BARBARY LIONS, YOU SHOULD NOT DEFILE YOURSELF WITH SUCH DIRTY HUMAN BLOOD
THAT WOULD BE AN AFFRONT TO OUR DIGNITY.

DAD!!
KRRR...
OH, MY...
SIMBA
A STRONG MAN DOES NOT KILL UNNECESSARILY

EXCELLENT, MY SON I'M PROUD OF YOU.
DEAR IT'S BEEN A WHILE
I'M SORRY TO HAVE LEFT YOU ALONE FOR SO LONG
DARN YOU, YOU CRAZY LION, YOU!! YOU'RE DEAD!!

HAMU!! YOU'RE OKAY?!
SHEM, JAPHETH!!
パサッ
WE MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE. WE HAVE THE UPPER HAND NOW, BUT IT WON'T LAST.
WRETCHES!! YOU DARE ATTACK ME?
I'LL SEE THAT YOU SUFFER GREATLY FOR THIS!

WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?! SEIZE THEM! HURRY!!
I THINK THAT JERK'S OUR GUY. HE LOOKS LIKE THE MAN ON THE HAMBURGER
YOU'RE RIGHT, BOSS. THAT'S KING DOLLAR I
BUT... BOSS, WHAT ABOUT OUR MISSION?
SHUT UP!!
OUR PRIORITY RIGHT NOW IS GETTING THAT DOLLAR-THIEVING BASTARD. FOOD IS SACRED, AND HE SHOULD GO TO HELL FOR WHAT HE SERVED US!!

AH, DAMN IT! WHY DO GOOD DEEDS ALWAYS END UP GETTING US CHASED?!
SHUT UP AND RUN, JAPHETH!!
GET THEM!!

WHOOAA!
I BUILT THIS FORTRESS FOR TRAPPING AND HUNTING GAME! HOO HOO HOO.
I DESIGNED THIS PLACE MYSELF! NO ONE ESCAPES UNLESS I
TO!!

HAMU, PERHAPS YOUR POWER MIGHT BE HANDY IN THIS SITUATION...?
OOH HA HA!! DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT WILL GET YOU OUT OF MY LABYRINTH?
MINMIN!

I DUNNO. ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE. NOT LIKE WE HAVE A LOT OF OPTIONS, ANYWAY!
ろぅ~
ポ~ン ポ~ン
AHHHHH! M-MONEY!!

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GAHHHH!!
WH-WHAT'S THIS?!
HA!

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ふわ
HUH? WHERE DID THEY GO?!
SORRY, KING, BUT I GUESS MY BUBBLES ARE USEFUL, AFTER ALL!

I'M SORRY I WASN'T ABLE TO PROTECT YOU, MY DARLING, BUT I'LL BE HERE FROM NOW ON.
I'LL STAND BY YOU UNTIL MY VERY LAST BREATH...
I WAS WRONG ABOUT OUR SON HE MAY HAVE BEEN YOUNG AND FOOLISH ONCE, BUT HE'S A MAN NOW

UH-HUH! SIMBA HAS GROWN UP.
SLEEP PEACEFULLY IN HEAVEN, MOM NO MORE WORRYING ABOUT ME
PLEASE, COME WITH US. WE REALLY SHOULD GET GOING
WHY NOT?! YOU TOTALLY PROMISED US!
NO, I AM NOT COMING.

REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY LAWS OF NATURE HUMANS BREAK, I CANNOT ABANDON MY KINGDOM.
THIS LAND IS UNDER MY CARE..
...AND IT'S WHERE MY BONES SHALL BE BURIED

SIMBA WILL GO ON YOUR NOAH'S ARK INSTEAD
THIS IS HOW NATURE WORKS, SON. THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE KING IN EACH DOMAIN YOU MUST CREATE A WORLD OF YOUR OWN!!
COME WITH ME, FATHER!! I DON'T WANT TO GO ALONE!
THAT IS THE WAY OF THE KING, SIMBA
HEH HEH HEH! HERE YOU ARE! YOU WEREN'T EASY TO TRACK DOWN.

HEEHEE
HEEHEE
RUNNING CAN'T SAVE YOU, SO JUST GIVE UP AND BE MY RUG, IF YOU PLEASE!!
YEESH! THAT GUY JUST WON'T QUIT.
I THINK IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS
DAD?!
NO! THE BIG ONE'S GETTING AWAY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! GET THAT LION!
ウア
HARUMPH! YOU DON'T WANT THAT SCRAWNY BOY. MY FUR IS MUCH MORE LUSTROUS. WHY DON'T YOU TRY CATCHING ME?!
DAD...

COME. WE MUST GO.

バタ
ゴゴゴゴ
DO YOU THINK MR BARBARY WILL BE OKAY?
FINALLY! IT'S GOING TO BE GOOD TO GET BACK HOME

OF COURSE! HE'S A BARBARY LION, WITH COURAGE FUELED BY ROYAL BLOOD.
RIGHT.

WAAAH!!
HUFF HUFF HUFF. DAMN IT. WHERE'S HE HIDING?
WE'VE BEEN LOST FOR FIVE HOURS NOW I HAVE A SINKING FEELING WE'RE NOT THE HUNTERS BUT THE PREY

SHUT UP!!
SHOULDN'T THEY BE ARRIVING ANY MINUTE NOW?
ブロロロロロロロロ
THERE THEY ARE RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.
HM? WHAT'S A CAR DOING OUT HERE?

?!
?
WE'RE HEALTH INSPECTORS FROM THE FOOD SANITATION ADMINISTRATION ARE YOU KING DOLLAR I?
WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT! HOW ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE WHO'VE GOTTEN SICK FROM EATING YOUR BURGERS!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF TAINTED FOOD PRODUCTS. THE FSA IS SEIZING ALL OF YOUR PROPERTY!

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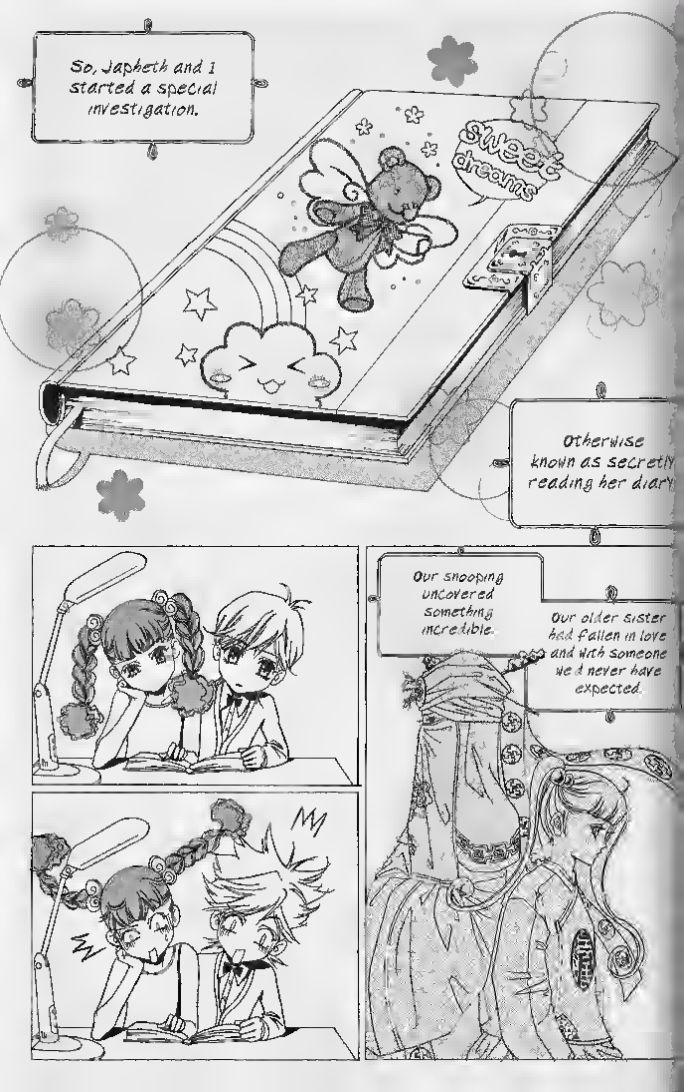
ブーン

{Chapter 4}

Shem is acting weird these days. She sits and stares into space...
...and then starts snickering all of a sudden...
EH HEH HEH HEH...
...before turning pensive and sobbing silently to herself...


So, Japheth and I started a special investigation.
Sweet dreams
Otherwise known as secretly reading her diary.
Our snooping uncovered something incredible.
Our older sister had fallen in love and with someone we'd never have expected.

The way they met is something neither will ever forget.
OOF! I'VE BEEN LOST FOR TWO HOURS NOW.
I'M SURE HE SAID IT WAS RIGHT AROUND HERE.
DELIVER THIS TO OUR KING.
Pfft!

WHOA! COULD THAT GUY BE THE KING?
No one has ever seen his face before.
It's part of his strength as a leader operating in secret....
OH!!

They say he feared his beautiful appearance would weaken him in the eyes of his rivals
ポチャ
?!!
Shem must've been the first--and last--person to see his face.

They met more than once.
IS IT NECESSARY TO REMAIN DISGUISED, EVEN UP HERE, YOUR HIGHNESS?
IT'S THOSE KIDS. I CAN'T SHAKE THEM FROM MY MIND.
WE MUST WATCH THEM CAREFULLY WE CAN'T LET THEM STAND IN OUR WAY.

IF YOU WISH TO SHADOW THEM, SIRE, YOU NEED TO APPEAR TO BE HUMAN.
DO YOU THINK IT'LL WORK?
JJ
concert

THE HUMANS OF THIS EARTH ARE UNCIVILIZED AND DANGEROUS. YOU MUST PROCEED WITH CAUTION.
WHAT THE--? ARE THEY SHOOTING A MOVIE HERE?

OMIGOD! IT'S J.J.! MY FAVORITE SINGER!
EEEE! HOW DO I LOOK? CAN J J SEE ME?!
NO WAY! IT IS J.J.!!
KYAAA!! I LOVE YOU!
STAY BACK, SAVAGES! FILTHY HUMANS!
WHAT'S THAT--?
CAN THEY TELL I AM NOT WHO I APPEAR TO BE? THEY ARE CASTING EVIL SPELLS!

I MUST FLEE! FIND SAFETY!
HE'S FLYING! HOW'D HE DO THAT?
I BET IT'S SOME KIND OF PROMOTION FOR HIS CONCERT
WHOOOA!

PHEW! REIKA WAS RIGHT. EARTHLINGS ARE DANGEROUS.
NO TURNING BACK NOW. I'M TOO CLOSE. THOSE KIDS LIVE NEARBY.
DID YOU THINK YOU COULD RUN FAR ENOUGH WHERE WE WOULDN'T FIND YOU?
GIVEN EVERYTHING OUR ORGANIZATION HAS DONE TO MAKE YOU FAMOUS, TO IGNORE US WOULD BREAK OUR HEARTS
HOW RUDE! YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO HAVE RAISED ME TO THE THRONE
YOU DON'T SAY YOU, LIKE, A SENIOR CITIZEN OR SOMETHIN'?

I'M 524 YEARS OLD AND DESERVING OF YOUR RESPECT.
Wa ha ha ha!
HAW HAW!! THIS BASTARD'S SOME KINDA WHACKJOB!
FLOWER SHOP
YOU GUYS ARE THIRSTY. IT MUST BE ALL THE WARM WEATHER!
WE ASKED YOU POLITELY TO SING IN OUR NIGHTCLUB, DIDN'T WE?

OH, MY! THOSE MEN IN BLACK ARE ATTACKING THAT GUY!
IT'S A QUESTION OF MANNERS MAYBE A FEW KNIFE SCARS ON THAT PRETTY FACE WILL SHOW YOU THE MEANING OF "ETIQUETTE."
ギュッ
EXCUSE ME, BUT WAS THAT SOME KIND OF THREAT JUST NOW? BECAUSE THREATS AREN'T VERY NICE.
WHAT THE--?!

THAT GIRL! SHE'S...
YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD, GIRLY! LEGGO!
GRRRR...

AAAAGH!!
EEK!!
AH HA HA! YOU DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE MESSING WITH, DO YOU?
KYAAAA!!
PLEASE REMEMBER THIS NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO BE MEAN. AH MY NOSE STILL HURTS A BIT

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
A king's ideal soul mate is a strong woman
I-I WOULD'VE BEEN FINE. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO —
NEVER-THELESS, THANK YOU.

And now...
Zzz...
Zzz...
DING
DONG

I'M NOT SURE OUR POSITION HASN'T BECOME REDUNDANT. WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO DO?
NOT REDUNDANT, BUT THOROUGH. WE ALL WANT THE SAME THING HERE
WE ONLY HAVE DIFFERENT METHODS FOR ACHIEVING IT
IS THAT WHY YOU'VE HELPED THEM INSTEAD OF STOPPING THEM LIKE I TOLD YOU TO DO?
SH-SHE'S RIGHT MAYBE WITH A COMBINED TECHNIQUE, WE CAN PULL IT OFF
WE ALL LOVE EARTH THE SAME, DON'T WE? HO HO HO
H-HOW DID YOU...?!!

Today, we're on a field trip.
smack
YEEGH! WHY DID WE HAVE TO DISGUISE OURSELVES AS STUDENTS, OF ALL THINGS?
YOU KIDS!! YOU'RE ABSENT FROM CLASS MORE THAN YOU ATTEND IT!
SHAPE UP, OR YOU'LL BE IN MY CLASS AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

CHEER UP! YOU STILL HAVE ME.
TODAY, WE WILL LEARN ABOUT SUBAQUEOUS INSECTS.
THIS IS A HYDROPHILIDAE. IT LIVES UNDERWATER BUT USED TO BE A FAR MORE COMMON SPECIES...

IF HUMANS CONTINUE TO LIVE THIS WAY, THE EARTH WILL RUN OUT OF PATIENCE FOR THEM. IT'S SAD, BUT ALSO SADLY COMIC.
WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH HUMANKIND?
HUHHH...? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHOA!!

WOW! WHAT KIND OF BUG IS THIS?
ポチ
THIS IS AN INSECT KNOWN AS LACCOTREPHES JAPONENSIS. THE LONG THING YOU SEE IS THE RESPIRATORY ORGAN IT USES TO DRAIN SMALL FISH OF THEIR BODILY FLUIDS
YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S KIND OF LIKE AN UNDERWATER DRACULA
HA HA HA! OOOOOOH, SPOOKY!
BETTER SPOOKY THAN SCARY. HUMANS HAVE SCARED THIS CREATURE RIGHT TO THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION
THIS IS A PRETTY RARE SPECIMEN RIGHT HERE

N-NO WAY!! Y-YOU'RE EARTH?!!
YES. THE HUMAN PROBLEM HAS REACHED ITS CRITICAL STAGE I DISGUISED MYSELF AS ONE OF THEM SO I MIGHT OBSERVE THEIR ACTIONS.
AT 12 O'CLOCK, EARTH AND ALL LIVING ORGANISMS WILL BE DESTROYED.
IT'S ALREADY NEARING 10. A DECISION HAS TO BE MADE
ZU

IF YOU HAD THE POWER TO DESTROY HUMANKIND, HOW WOULD YOU DO IT?
THAT'S...
WHEN YOU WERE FILLING UP THAT ANTI-EXTINCTION NOAH'S ARK OF YOURS, DIDN'T YOU MEET A LOT OF HUMANS?
DID YOU FIND THEM PLEASANT?

HERE... IF YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE DECIDING, LET ME OFFER YOU TWO CHOICES.
WHOA!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE KIRIGI'S REALLY EARTH!

.....
WOW!

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IF WE REMOVE THE HUMAN EQUATION, THIS IS HOW THE PLANET WILL LOOK.
OKAY BUT WHAT'S THE OTHER CHOICE?
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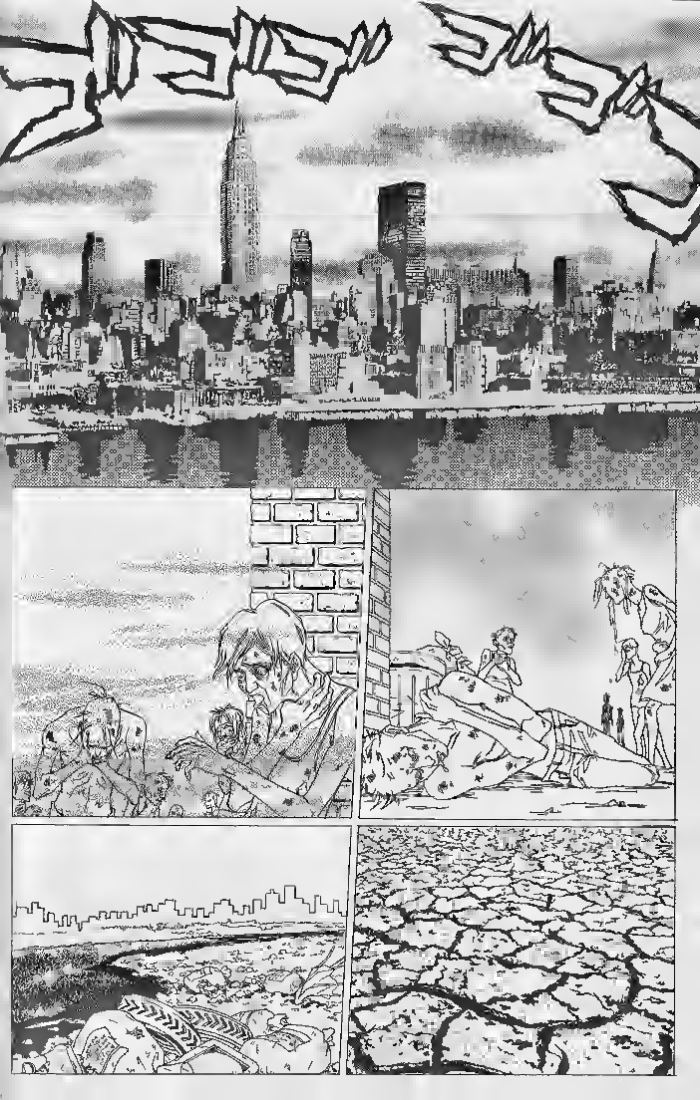

WHY DO YOU CRY?
YOU LOVE THESE NAUGHTY CREATURES, DON'T YOU?
ARE THESE REALLY THE ONLY OPTIONS?
IS THERE NO HOPE? NOT EVEN A TINY BIT?

I DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT SURE I'D CALL IT LOVE.
I JUST DON'T BELIEVE ANY CREATURE IS COMPLETELY BAD.
NOT ANY THAT GOD HAS CREATED, AT LEAST

I SEE...
COULDN'T YOU WAIT A BIT LONGER? GIVE THEM MORE TIME TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE.
AND MY SISTERS AND I WILL WORK HARDER!

HA! DO YOU REALLY FEEL SAFE GAMBLING OUR LIVES ON SUCH A THIN CHANCE?
RIKARI!!
DOES THAT MEAN...? ARE YOU...?
I AM THE MOON. ISN'T IT TIME WE MET PROPERLY? I AM A BROTHER TO THE EARTH

PHEW! FINALLY, ANOTHER TASK COMPLETED, A STEP CLOSER TO OUR GOAL!
Every time we bring another endangered species onto our Noah's Ark, the clock is set back one minute.

Won't you all help us complete our mission?
For your own good...

YOUR FAITH IN THE HUMANS...
...I WILL REST MY HOPE UPON IT.
HERE!

Thank you for sticking around through the whole series of *Ark Angels*!!

Please also check out *The Tarot Café* by Sang-Sun Park

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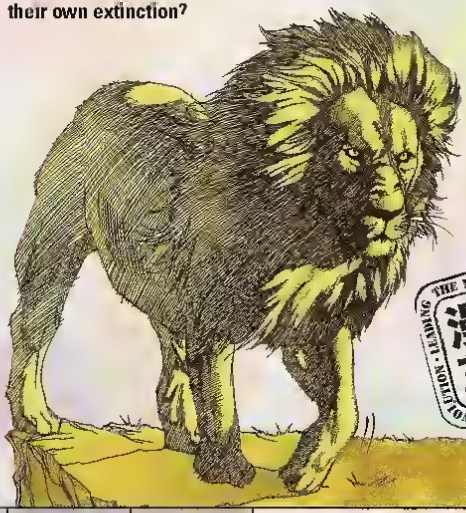

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